

REMARKS

The original claims 1-20 have been cancelled from the specification and new claims 21-32 have been added.

Support for the new claims 21-32 may be found in the specification at page 4, Example 1 and the claims.

As a result of the cancellation of the claims in the originally filed specification all of the Examiner's objections and rejections are rendered moot.

New Claims 21-32 are Distinguishable over the Iyer et al patent (U.S. 5,686,375)


The newly presented claims are patentably distinguishable over the teachings of the Iyer patent for a large number of reasons. One such reason includes the requirement that the claimed catalyst be made using a support material that contains less than about 1 weight percent nickel and which was formed by mixing with the alumina of the support material a nickel compound and calcining the resulting mixture. The Iyer patent requires its underbedded nickel components to encompass at least 4.5 weight percent of the support. See column 4, lines 27-29. The transitional phrase "consisting essentially of" of new independent claim 27 provides further distinctions over the Iyer patent.

Conclusion

It is respectfully asserted that the newly presented claims 21-32 are patentable over the prior art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the claims now pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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